

**TOWN OF WELLESLEY
Advisory Committee**



**Town Hall
525 Washington Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02482**

**Chair
Margaret Ann Metzger**

**Vice Chair
Katy Gibson**

March 20, 2008

ARTICLE 7. To see what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, including transfer from available funds, or borrowing, to supplement appropriations previously approved by the 2007 Annual Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Board of Selectmen)

This is an addendum to the commentary on **Article 7** that appears in the Advisory committee Report to the 2008 Annual Town Meeting at page 8, which should be read in conjunction with this update.

Motion 1

The School Committee is requesting a special FY08 appropriation of \$530,318, a net of unanticipated costs and offsetting savings as follows:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Additional costs for special tuition and transportation (STT) | (\$1,180,518) |
| Higher than budgeted Utilities | (\$76,800) |
| Unanticipated staff & administrative turnover, vacancy savings | \$433,000 |
| FY07 funds available after settlement of outstanding invoices | <u>\$294,000</u> |
| Total Appropriation Request | (\$530,318) |

The write-up of Article 7 in the Advisory Committee's 2008 Reports to the Annual Town Meeting provides detail of the unanticipated STT costs. Since that information was developed, five additional students have been placed in out-of-district programs, increasing the STT FY08 deficit by approximately \$152,000 to \$1,180,518.

Electricity expense for FY08 is projected to show a deficit of approximately \$110,000 due to increased lighting and newly functioning equipment (such as roof vent fans) as a result of the Middle School renovation. Offsetting utilities savings include \$28,000 for heating, due to favorable bid prices for natural gas and fuel oil, as well as \$4,700 for sewerage and telephone.

Turnover and vacancy savings of \$433,00 are due to several factors, including: on-going turnover of support staff, mid-year leave of absences, lagging lane changes, central

administration turnover (including in the Superintendent position), vacancy savings from the unfilled Facilities Director position and lower than anticipated recruiting and advertising costs.

\$297,000 is available from savings due to FY07 final settlements and tuition costs for out-of-district programs that were lower than initially projected. These funds are available to partially offset the FY08 deficit as State regulations allow a portion (25%) of out-of-district tuitions to be funded from prior year funds.

Advisory recommends favorable action, 12-0.

Motion 2

As discussed in the Advisory Report, the Department of Public Works is requesting a supplemental FY08 appropriation of \$400,000 for winter maintenance. Expenditures for snow and ice removal this winter have exceeded the budget by more than this amount.

Advisory recommends favorable action 12 to 0.

Motion 3

This recently added Motion requests that Town Meeting authorize the receipt by the Town of \$250,000 from the developer of the former Wellesley Inn parcel. As stated in the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and WB Wellesley Inn, LLC, dated February 12, 2007, this money is to be used to fund improvements to on-street and off-street parking facilities in Wellesley.

This motion also requests that this sum of \$250,000 be appropriated to the Board of Selectman for the following uses:

- \$150,000 to replace parking machines in municipal lots. This funding replaces planned borrowing for this purpose, which was approved at the 2007 ATM. Town Meeting is requested, under Article 34, to rescind the debt authorization.
- \$100,000 to repave municipal lots.

Advisory recommends favorable action, 11 to 0.